



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter September 2020

Life is for learning.....learn for life

Meetings

Next meeting: The meeting on 16th September has been cancelled due to the level 2 Covid restrictions. We are hoping that Mark Houlahan will be available for a meeting in early 2021.

October meeting: We are hopeful that this meeting will go ahead, and we have a wonderful speaker lined up. Dan Zirker is a political scientist and will share some interesting insights into local and international politics.

President's report

Tēnā koutou. This is my first report as president of U3A Hamilton and I feel honoured to be elected to this role. My husband Neil, and I, moved to Hamilton three years ago and belonging to U3A has given us a way to meet new friends and enjoy stimulating meetings.

With the AGM being cancelled the committee had to come together to devise and implement a voting process to accommodate the different needs of our members. Many thanks to Noeline Alcorn for collating the responses, her report is below:

In all, 72 members voted. 65 voted by email and 7 by post.

All were in favour of motions 2, 3, and 4.

All those who said they were present at the 2019 AGM voted that the minutes were a true and correct record. (40)

So we can consider the new committee officially elected and the accounts approved for submission to the Charities Commission

The new committee is Alison Fagan (President), Judith Hickman (Vice President and Membership), Paul Etheredge (Secretary), Christine Williams (Treasurer), Carol Carr, Anne Devlin (Newsletter), Graham Harrison (Groups), Peggy Koopman-Boyden (Speakers) Gavin Muckle (Archivist), Janet Sceats (Speakers). Noeline Alcorn (ex officio).

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the previous committee who have resigned, and hope that before the end of the year they can be formally thanked in a meeting.

Noeline Alcorn has led U3A through its growth in numbers and the changes that this has necessitated. Her skills and experience have been invaluable. She has helped implement activities such as the new member meetings which have fostered the organisation's reputation for friendliness. The committee is very fortunate to have her staying on ex officio to share her institutional knowledge.

Judy Macdonald as vice president and speaker co-ordinator has provided support to the committee and produced an interesting range of speakers. No matter that sometimes the topic may have sounded a bit dry the speakers never failed to enthral and stimulate. Judy was even prepared to "step in" when one of our speakers had to cancel.

Beverley Bell did an amazing job of bringing the finances of U3A into the digital age while recognising that for some members this was a concern. She also fulfilled liaison roles with other organisations. During lockdown Beverley instigated the online learning blog on our website and will continue to monitor this.

Gorham Milbank has been a conscientious and compassionate Almoner and is prepared to carry on this role ex committee until we have found a replacement.

Julie Shaw has worked to help establish the U3A website and continues to maintain and update it for us. She has offered to carry on doing this.

We have three new committee members, Christine Williams, Carol Carr and Anne Devlin. You can read about them later in the newsletter.

The last few months have been difficult in many ways and although we have been unable to hold our monthly meetings many of our interest groups have continued to meet either via technology or lately in managed small groups. These groups fulfil a vital role in meeting the social needs of our members. Graham Harrison has established one new group and has two more in the pipeline.

This is my last newsletter as editor and I am grateful to Anne Devlin for agreeing to take on this role.

I am looking forward to working with all the committee members to keep U3A flourishing and growing.

Alison Fagan, President U3A Hamilton

Members

Beryle Osmond – Founding President of U3A Waikato

On August 27 The Cambridge News carried an obituary for Beryle Osmond who died in Cambridge on August 12. At the time of her death Beryle was just a few weeks short of her 100th birthday. Beryle was first President of U3A in Hamilton from June 1995 until June 1996. She remained on the committee until June 1997 and was a member for some years after that. During the first two or three of years of U3A's existence Beryle and her husband Ron hosted a Christmas function for U3A members at their home in Cambridge.



It was reported in the obituary that Beryle had been born and grew up in Australia. She trained as a social worker, came to New Zealand in 1948, married in Wellington in 1950 and settled in Cambridge in 1952.

She was active in many organisations in Cambridge over many years – such as the Kindergarten, Toastmasters, the Lyceum Club, Plunket, IHC and the Community Arts Council. She also set up a support group for mothers and established the first day care centre in Cambridge. In 1973 she was one of three women named as Waikato Women of the Year and in 1977 she was awarded a Silver Jubilee Medal. In 1993 she was awarded a National Woman's Suffrage Medal for her contribution to communities in New Zealand.

We extend our sympathy to her family.

Groups

New groups

Antiques & Collectables is now up and running.

We are also about to form 2 new groups – **Book Discussion and Gardening**.

There is room for a couple more members in both, so if you're keen, please get in touch.

Don't forget we are trying to form a photography group.

See our new **Waiting List** book when we next have a meeting.

Graham Harrison gfharrison26@gmail.com 855 6217

Committee news



The committee has 3 new members who have written something about themselves below.

Treasurer: **Christine (Chrissie) Williams**



Kia ora. I moved back to Hamilton 2 years ago (after having lived here as a young woman), after 35 years in Hokianga where I raised my three children. My husband and I ran a small macadamia nut farm and sailed the Pacific, but he died of cancer in 2018. My career was in biometrics, and then in hospital administration and management; my last job was 25 years with Hokianga Health in Rawene. I was always a horse-rider, a bit of a runner, and interested in sustainability and self-sufficiency. Now I enjoy being near my grandchildren, reading, films and all the facilities that Hamilton has to offer.

Newsletter Editor **Anne Devlin**



I am relatively new to the Waikato and U3A. I look forward to meeting fellow members and continuing my learning journey, along with some fun and laughter. After a career in education, it will be special to follow some of my interests.

Carol Carr I'm a retired teacher, now happily focused on music, garden, friends and family. I also convene the U3A Computer Group.

Finance:



With the disruptions to meetings that we have had this year some members are uncertain whether they have paid their subs or not. These were due at the beginning of the year and if you didn't receive a reminder from Beverley Bell recently then you have paid.

Health and Safety:

The committee is looking for a volunteer to assume the role of Health and Safety co-ordinator. The role doesn't require a medical person but preferably someone who has had some training in health and safety.



This person would not have to attend committee meetings but would take responsibility for

- Informing members of the safety procedures at general meetings
- Liaising with the church about their requirements
- Keeping records of members with medical knowledge/ experience

Please contact me, Alison Fagan on 07 855 7009 or alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz if you would like to find out more or feel you could take on this role.

Defibrillator training:

In the July newsletter we informed you of the proposed training in the use of a defibrillator. The committee feels that this is a useful skill for our members to have and there is a defibrillator at the church hall where we hold our monthly meetings. Defibrillators are also situated in many other public places for use by people trained in their use.

U3a will pay for this training with the understanding that those who are trained will be available at general meetings on a rostered basis.

Please contact Carol Carr carolevelyn49@icloud.com or 027 3486 704 if you are interested in doing this training (or if you are unsure if you have already indicated interest!).

Privacy of Information:

Some members may have concerns about their privacy in this era of digital information. We use a database to maintain our records and to communicate with you. This has become an essential tool with our increased membership and the occasional need to communicate quickly, for example in the event of recently cancelled meetings.

We have developed the following Privacy statement which is also on our website.

U3A Hamilton Privacy Statement

We collect personal information from you including information about your:

- Name
- Contact details
- Interest group membership

We collect your personal information in order to:

- Maintain contact with you
- Collect subscriptions
- Provide information about our lecture programme and interest groups
- Keep accurate membership lists

We keep your information safe by storing it on a secure website and allowing only designated Committee members to view it.

You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you would like to ask for

a copy of your information, or have it corrected please contact us at hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1103, Hamilton.

Here is an example of my entry in the database

Current	First Name	Last Name	Groups	Email	Phone	Mobile	Address	Joined
Yes	Alison	Fagan	Dining Together, Gardening, Nat. Environs Hamilton, Theatre & Shows	alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz	855 7009	027-233 9218	7 Keswick Crescent, Huntington, Hamilton 3210	2017-06-01

Outings

Trip to Maungatautari Sanctuary Mountain

Our planned **trip to Sanctuary Mountain at Maungatautari** earlier in the year had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 lockdown. **We have rescheduled the trip for Wednesday 28 October.** There is still room for more people to join us. If you would like to be part of this trip please email noeline.alcorn@gmail.com by Friday 18 September as we will need to confirm numbers with the mountain. Please include your name, address, email address, cell phone number, emergency contact and number.

Two guided tours are arranged but you will have the option to do only one tour though this will involve waiting after lunch while the rest of the party does tour 2.

11 am: Secrets of the Tautari Wetland. This includes the tuatarium and close ups of the takahe family.

12 pm: Lunch, bring your own. Coffee will be available for purchase.

12.45 pm: The Ancient Forest. There are some hill climbs on even paths.

Cost is \$41 for the full tour or \$25 for the morning tour only. This must be paid by 23 September by online internet banking or by cash at any Westpac branch to U3A account: 03 1559 0030619 00. (Include your name for reference);

We will be travelling by carpooling, leaving Hamilton at 9.30 am. Passengers will be asked for a \$15 koha which equates with the cost of a bus. Those who have already paid the bus fare will be refunded at the mountain. It is strongly suggested that you wear a mask in the car.